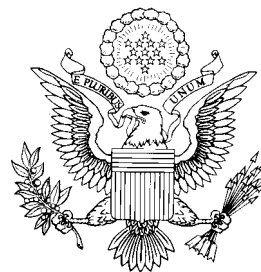


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**U.S. Consulate General Shanghai
Suite 532, 1376 Nanjing West Road
Shanghai, 200040**

Tel: 86-21-6279-7662 x 4678

Fax: 021-6279-7603

Email: shanghaiirc@state.gov

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民主与全球问题 **Democracy and Global Issues**

1. Inaugurations Past and Present

The Center for Politics, Larry J. Sabato's Crystal Ball 08

Larry J. Sabato

How best to balance the need for change with the assurance of continuity? Ceremony. Of all our national rites of passage, none has more significance than the inauguration of a President. The simple oath of office, stretching back 220 years, links Democrats, Republicans, liberals, conservatives, and Founders in an unbroken line.

2. Obama's First Year

National Journal, December 13, 2008

Barnes, James A.

National Journal surveyed 129 members of Congress and 232 political insiders (party chairmen, political strategists, pollsters, lobbyists, fundraisers and media consultants) to get some insight on what they expect the first year of the Obama administration to be like. Overall, the findings “suggest that 2009 will be a year of opportunity for Obama, provided that he and his Democratic allies remain focused on the overarching task of righting the economy,” the author writes. While Obama campaigned on a theme of change, most insiders do not expect there to be a major transformative change in Washington. Some of those surveyed note that the economic crisis could provide an opportunity for the next president. “A crisis gives you the opportunity ... to energize [the public],” said Ken Duberstein, President Reagan’s chief of staff. The author suggests that Obama may have more opportunity for success with his policy proposals by linking them to economic goals.

3. Inside the Presidency

National Geographic, January 2009

Bumiller, Elisabeth

Although the occupant of the White House changes, most of the routines for the staff that assist the president stay the same. Bumiller gives an inside look at life in the White House or on the road with the president; she interviews Gary Walters, former chief usher of the Executive Mansion, who served as a manager of the White House for 31 years, spanning six presidencies. A staff of 90, including butlers, maids, chefs, elevator operators, florists, carpenters and electricians, runs the White House residence, which has been known to welcome up to 30,000 guests in a single week. The White House staff knows how the first family wants their bedrooms set up, what snacks they like, what toothpaste they use. But these perks come at a price — first families foot the bill for personal items such as food and dry cleaning. In the article Joe Hagin, former deputy chief of staff in charge of operations, describes what it is like traveling on the road or on the plane with the president. He describes Air Force One as equipped with beds, exercise equipment and a fully functioning kitchen. He explains that the president travels with a contingent of hundreds overseas, but typically is in a “bubble” surrounded by close staffers and Secret Service agents. The article ends with a quote from former First Lady Barbara Bush: “presidents come and go. Butlers stay.”

4. Global Trends in Culture, Infrastructure, and Values
Futurist, vol. 42, no. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 18-23
Hines, Andy

The author, director of Custom Projects at Social Technologies in Washington, DC, notes that just a decade or so ago, many were concerned about a homogenized global culture dominated by the U.S. and its powerful entertainment industry. However, local cultures around the world have been more robust than originally thought. The author notes that people are quite capable of taking the aspects of global culture they like, ignoring the rest, and retaining what they are attached to in their native cultures; this adaptability serves as a long-term driver of change. The author explores ten trends whose influence he believes will grow in the coming decades, including cultural multipolarity; new electronic media, particularly the Internet and mobile phones; the spread of new ideas; electrification; mobility; ethical consumption; women's rights; social freedom; and transparency.

5. Culture Conundrum: News Outlets Struggle to Find a Place for International Cultural Stories
Global Journalist, Vol. 14, no. 3, Fall 2008, pp. 42-45
Lee, Hsin-Yin

Reporting on cultural events is a tough sell for overseas media outlets unless the topic directly relates to a bilateral relationship or a “hard news” interest, such as Japanese reporters in Washington covering the annual Cherry Blossom festival or American reporters writing about Middle Eastern culture due to some connection with the war on terror. But cultural reporting is important as a means of understanding “how people in other countries work, think, dream and worry,” and language barriers and other obstacles should be overcome in order to improve this aspect of two-way communication offered by journalism. In doing so, universal themes and truths can be discovered and encouraged which would increase mutual understanding.

6. Google's Gatekeepers
New York Times Magazine, November 30, 2008
Rosen, Jeffrey

The author, a law professor at George Washington University, notes that even though the Web might seem like a free-speech panacea, there is less focus on how the Internet is actually regulated, and by whom. As more and more speech migrates online, the ultimate power to decide who has an opportunity to be heard, and what people may say, lies increasingly with Internet service providers, search engines, and other Internet companies like Google. With control of two-thirds of the world's Internet searches, as well as ownership of YouTube, Google has enormous influence over who can find an audience on the Web; it has adopted a decision-making process about what controversial user-generated content stays up or comes down on YouTube and other applications owned by Google. Google's increasing role in policing content on its applications is also working at cross-purposes with many national governments, which are also blocking access to YouTube, such as recent incidents in Thailand and Turkey.

7. Why I Blog**Atlantic, November, 2008****Sullivan, Andrew**

Sullivan describes the evolution of his blogging, which he began in 2000. He describes not knowing what to write about at first, but eventually discovering that writing a blog was similar to writing an e-mail. "You end up writing about yourself, since you are a relatively fixed point in this constant interaction with the ideas and facts of the exterior world. And in this sense, the historic form closest to blogs is the diary. But with this difference: a diary is almost always a private matter," Sullivan writes. He describes blogs as a publication with a deadline at all times. "There is a vividness to this immediacy that cannot be rivaled by print," he says. Sullivan says he was quickly hooked on blogging because its unfiltered process was "liberating," but it also came with more direct criticism from readers. But the readers also become news sources, changing the way reporting works. Sullivan's article outlines the many challenges he has faced and lessons he has learned from this new medium.

8. Think Again: Climate Change**Foreign Policy, January/February 2009****McKibben, Bill**

Noted author Bill McKibben writes that it may be too late to avert climate change, but that it is imperative that the international political order stop delaying and adopt the few options humanity has left. He notes that there is no doubt left among the scientific community that global warming is a reality; many scientists feel that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest report is too conservative. The claims that agriculture will improve in some regions as frost recedes may hold true for a while, but eventually the threat of heat stress and drought will be global. Solving the climate crisis is no longer an option, as human activities have already raised the global temperature by a degree; all we can do is mitigate its worst aspects. Coordinating this effort with every country on earth will be "far and away the biggest foreign-policy challenge we face."

经济贸易 Economics and Trade**9. US and China Must Tame Imbalances Together****YaleGlobal, 6 January 2009****Michael Pettis**

With surging liquidity and massive trade imbalances, no one should have been surprised by the global economic crisis, because as finance professor of Peking University Michael Pettis explains, this has been the historical pattern. Pettis details the history of the crisis, starting in 1980s, when US policy encouraged securitization of mortgages, converting illiquid assets into highly liquid investments; US households shifted money into homes rather than savings accounts, and housing prices climbed; China, enjoying a trade surplus, collected US dollars and invested in US assets. A self-reinforcing cycle led US consumers to buy more, Chinese factories to produce more, banks in both countries to lend more, and the bubbles burst in late

2008. US adjustment is more rapid than China's, which could lead to a new set of problems. Pettis warns that replacing US household consumption with US government consumption will only perpetuate the imbalances, and he urges the two nations to act responsibly, coordinating fiscal and monetary policies to ease US overconsumption and Chinese overproduction.

10. Bootstrapping Trade

World Policy Journal, Vol. 25, no. 4, Winter 2008/2009, pp. 127-131

Christy, David

The lessons of the Smoot-Hawley tariff act make it easy to advocate free trade, says the author, a Washington trade lawyer. However, he notes that U.S. policies must recognize both the benefits and the costs of free trade, and that it must be supported as a matter of smart politics in a time of economic trouble. More needs to be done, however, to avoid unacceptable social costs. The WTO will remain an important institution despite its detractors, says Christy; signaling U.S. continued support for trade liberalization would give it a boost. However, he argues that there is little that any U.S. administration could do to speed the Doha Round, and that the U.S. should not take anything off the table because any retrenchment would have a negative impact on the talks. He praises the G20's pledge not to erect trade barriers for at least a year, but he raises a possibility that the U.S. and other WTO members may have to cut a few corners on trade to find the way out of the crisis despite this pledge. He also argues against opening NAFTA in an attempt to renegotiate it as the U.S. "would have to pay Canada and Mexico dearly for every change we were to seek."

11. Warning: More Doom Ahead

Foreign Policy, January/February 2009

Roubini, Nouriel

The author, professor of economics at New York University's Stern School of Business, writes that "last year's worst-case scenarios came true," and that the global financial pandemic that he and others had warned about has arrived. This year portends the credit crunch getting worse, as the deleveraging continues and asset prices continue to fall. The U.S. will experience its worst recession in decades, and some developing economies will experience a full-blown financial crisis, and may need external financing to avoid a meltdown. Roubini notes that this crisis is not only the result of the collapse of the U.S. housing market or of abuses in subprime mortgage lending — the credit excesses were global, amounting to "the biggest asset and credit bubble in human history." He notes that drastic actions in the last year by the G-7 and others averted a total systemic meltdown, but that "the worst is not behind us ... only very aggressive, coordinated, and effective action by policymakers will ensure that 2010 will not be even worse than 2009 is likely to be." This is the first of a five-article series in this issue of FP magazine, called THE WORST IS YET TO COME.

12. So, You Want to Save the Economy? Inside the Influential New World of Econobloggers

Boston Globe, December 7, 2008

Mihm, Stephen

As the financial disaster unfolded on Wall Street, Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson pressed Congress to pass the bailout plan but provided sparse justification for how he would spend the money. The author notes that a disparate range of experts in economics and finance, including some well-known individuals, starting picking apart Paulson's plan live, on the Internet, in public blogs. Many bloggers provided historical context and offered counterproposals; their readers began badgering their Congressional representatives to oppose the plan. Whether the blogs influenced Washington's response to the crisis, notes Mihm, it's clear that policymakers "are no longer operating alone." The blogs are essentially a crash course in economics and finance, a "conversation that's simultaneously esoteric and irreverent, combining technical discussions of liquidity traps and yield curves with profane putdowns and heckling headlines." Many journalists used the blogs to fill in gaps in their knowledge of esoteric aspects of mortgage finance.

国际安全 International Security

13. An American Strategy for Asia

AEI Online, January 12, 2009

Dan Blumenthal, Aaron Friedberg

The new administration confronts an unusually long and daunting list of pressing foreign policy problems: ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, the continuing threat of global terrorism, a brewing crisis in Pakistan, unresolved nuclear standoffs with Iran and North Korea, Russia's new aggressiveness toward its neighbors, and the lingering aftereffects of a global financial meltdown. As important as they undoubtedly are, all of the issues listed above are being played out against the backdrop of something even bigger: a massive, rapid shift in the distribution of global wealth and power toward Asia. This process has been gathering momentum for more than thirty years; if current projections are borne out, in the next thirty Asia's rise will fundamentally alter the structure of the international system and the character of great power politics. The purpose of this report is to put forward an American strategy for Asia. It differs from others on related subjects in two important ways. First, it is focused rather than comprehensive. Instead of touching lightly on every conceivable subject relevant to Asia, the writers have chosen to concentrate on those that they believe to be of greatest strategic importance. Second, the report is more candid than is typically the case about the challenges that are likely to emanate from Asia and, in particular, about those that may result from the rise of China.

14. On the Eve of Obama's Inauguration: American Soft Power in Asia

Brookings Northeast Asia Commentary, January 2009

Richard C. Bush III

Polls suggest that Barack Obama's support rate in East Asian countries was higher than in the United States (in the 70-to-80 percent range). In Asia, his election has fostered new respect for American democracy and high expectations for his presidency, for better or for worse. More broadly, there is a sense that the departure of George W. Bush and the arrival of the new administration will revive the soft power of the United States.

15. Who Shapes the National Security Debate? Divergent Interpretations of Japan's Security Role**Asian Affairs: An American Review, vol. 35 no. 3, Fall 2008, pp. 123-151****Hirata, Keiko**

As Japan continues to debate whether to take a more pro-active or assertive security role in the post-Cold War era, the country appears divided into four distinct groups (pacifists, mercantilists, normalists, and nationalists) which at times overlap and other times are diametrically opposed to each others' views on the security alliance with the United States and the use of Japan's Self Defense Forces (SDF) in international disputes. Pacifists believe the country can avoid war and many negative repercussions by strictly adhering to the war-renouncing constitution that has been in place since the end of World War II and they do not favor a close U.S. security alliance. Mercantilists de-emphasize minimal defense spending in favor of economic prosperity, and give the U.S. alliance a high priority. Normalists believe Japan should assume greater responsibility for its security and have the SDF participate in U.N.-led efforts. The far-right nationalists want Japan to reassert itself militarily and for its security to be independent from the U.S. As exemplified by the ascendance of Prime Ministers Koizumo, Abe and Aso, the normalists have currently taken over leadership from the mercantilists that had dominated the country for decades.

16. Anti-Piracy Patrols Presage Rising Naval Powers**YaleGlobal, 13 January 2009****Brian Wilson, James Kraska**

The lawlessness arising from the poor desert nation of Somalia (estimated per capita GDP is \$600) has forced the world to sit up and take note. With its coastal waters depleted by over-fishing, some Somalis have taken up piracy as a lucrative profession, using small boats and arms to hijack the rich cargo passing by through the Gulf of Aden, the avenue for most maritime traffic between East and West. The rising threat of piracy in international waters has triggered activism by concerned countries and brought out new naval players. Joining traditional maritime powers is a European naval force integrated for the first time under EU command as well as the first extended transcontinental naval operational deployments from China and India. On January 14, the United Nations is convening about two dozen nations and five international organizations on how to best coordinate counter-piracy. "As more warships converge to the Horn, there's an increased imperative for all operating forces to have a common operating picture," write US navy lawyers Brian Wilson and James Kraska in this YaleGlobal article. Efforts are underway to coordinate communications, policy and procedures, explain the two naval officers, and such coordination could ensure that increased patrols by warships secure the region rather than become a source of friction among rising naval powers.

17. The Fighting in Gaza: How Does It End? (And, Will It?)**Center for Strategic & International Studies, January 5, 2009****Anthony H. Cordesman**

The fighting in Gaza is already a major human tragedy for the Palestinians. It compounds the impact of Hamas's takeover of Gaza, a heritage of terrorism and rocket attacks on Israel, and

Palestinian and Israeli internal political tensions that have made the search for peace largely a matter of hollow rhetoric. The key question is whether this tragedy, and the casualties and damage on both sides, can have any meaningful strategic outcome? It is whether it will simply be another peak of violence in a continuing process of conflict or can actually move towards some form of stable result. One thing is certain. The fighting has already become a strategic liability for the US. There is no good answer to what level of force is “proportionate” in this kind of asymmetric warfare.

美国社会及价值观 U.S. Society and Values

18. China Entices Its Scholars to Come Home

Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 55, No. 17, December 19, 2008, pp. A20-21
Hvistendahl, Mara

Between 1978 and 2005, more than 770,000 Chinese students went abroad but less than one quarter returned to China after completing their studies. Today, Chinese government and private efforts to improve the country’s academic environment and reverse this brain drain appear to be succeeding. As part of its effort to create internationally-recognized universities, the government has provided money to top universities specifically for hiring from overseas. University administrators have also been busy recruiting top Chinese-American academics like Yusheng Zheng, who was lured away from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School to return to his native Shanghai and become associate dean of Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business, where 27 of 35 faculty members are Chinese academics educated in the United States. Chinese universities now offer competitive benefits and salaries to those academics interested in returning from abroad, says Hvistendahl, who terms the about-face from earlier Chinese policies on study abroad “remarkable.” In 2005, about 35,000 returned, often to positions of leadership and with real power to effect educational reforms. “In the U.S., you’re one of thousands of people who end up there,” says Dean Zheng. “In China, every one of us chooses to be here.” While there are problems — the resentment of locals against returnees who may earn many times more in salary depending on their credentials and professional profile — the “sea turtles,” as they are called, are returning home, bringing the American model of education with them.

19. Strategy Retooled at Gates

Education Week, Vol. 28, No. 13, November 19, 2008, pp. 1, 10-11
Robelen, Erik

Over the past eight years, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has spent \$4 billion on education, much of it on a school improvement strategy that has not delivered the academic gains the foundation hoped for. The Gates Foundation is focusing on “fewer, clearer, and higher” standards for college readiness, better quality teaching and aiding struggling students. Gates believes the U.S. has put too much emphasis on expanding access to higher education and not enough on college completion. Only about half of U.S. students who enroll in college manage to graduate within six years, and the completion rates for African-American and Hispanic students are only about 20 percent, according to the foundation. The foundation

plans to promote common core standards across states, build the public and political will to achieve college readiness for all, work with school districts to retain and compensate effective teachers in the schools that most need them, and foster technological innovations that will help students who have fallen behind.

20. Working in Wiki

Governing, May 2008, pp. 1-11

Perlman, Ellen; Maynard, Melissa

Web 2.0 is a new generation of Internet applications that consist of social networking tools, including websites like Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, Second Life and Wikipedia. The authors write that state and local government have begun utilizing these social networking tools, and that these tools can transform the way government functions. As opposed to the current top-down culture of emails, briefings and conferences, Web 2.0 encourages a more democratic approach — for instance, employees can be involved in creating and maintaining a Wiki page. Virtual reality Web 2.0 applications like Second Life can help bring employees at disparate locations closer together and provide a better alternative to conference calls. Second Life can also save costs through virtual training of employees. However, implementing these technologies takes managers who eager to learn the new technology and see it as a means to improve the efficiency of the organization. Success in implementing Web 2.0 in government also requires employees to select what aspect of a project they want to work on. The authors say that Web 2.0 is inevitable for government -- “Governments can either play an active role in transforming themselves or wait and let change hit them; either way, it’s coming.”

21. The 21st- Century Writer

Futurist, vol. 42, no. 4, July/August 2008, pp. 25-31

Tucker, Patrick

Tucker, senior editor of The Futurist, notes that for both writers and readers, these are times of upheaval. The information technology revolution has led to an explosion in written content. For book publishers, the mission is to reinvent the concept of the book for the digital age. For many writers, particularly nonfiction writers, it means joining the online world of blogs, vlogs, and RSS feeds where the pace of news is accelerated. Some bloggers report that the money from ad clicks related to their blog content is barely enough to cover the cost of blogging. Book publishers are finding it harder to back first-time or less popular authors. Across the United States, newspapers and magazines are focusing their resources more and more on their Web sites. In the process, they're giving voice to an entirely new breed of digital journalist even as they show the door to news department veterans. Many writers are justifiably alarmed by the shift, but writers who are willing to view themselves as storytellers first and foremost, who are eager to incorporate new technology into the writing process, have a bright future.

22. Our Faces on Broadway

Ebony, vol. 64, no. 1, November 2008, pp. 138-140, 144

Murray, Nubia

New York's famous Broadway theater district, known as "the Great White Way" on account of its bright lights, has too often lived up to its nickname when it comes to the race or ethnicity of the actors onstage, says the author. But recently, African-American performers have begun turning up in a greater variety of roles. While productions that chronicle the black experience (such as "Ain't Misbehavin'" or "The Color Purple") still account for the vast majority of appearances by African-Americans on Broadway, a new trend is emerging: color-blind casting. A number of major theatrical shows in New York now feature African-American performers in roles that are not race-specific, creating wider opportunities for minority actors and redefining audience expectations. The stage version of "Chicago," starring Broadway veteran Brenda Braxton as leading lady Velma Kelly, offers just one example of this trend. In the summer of 2008, the restaged Tennessee Williams classic "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" featured James Earl Jones and Phylicia Rashad, with Rashad's sister Debbie Allen at the production's helm. And Morgan Freeman, best known for his film roles, returned to Broadway after a 20-year absence to star in "The Country Girl." One show that is seldom recognized as a multicultural production, however, actually leads the pack: the Broadway adaptation of Disney's megahit "The Little Mermaid." "I think we do a really good job of showing so many colors on the stage," says actor Derrick Baskin, who plays the role of Jetsam. For their part, cast members add that they would like to see a more diverse audience at the theater, too.